GREAT GRAY OWL METADATA

KEYWORDS

Subject Keywords — **Common-use word or phrase used to describe the subject of the data set.**
great gray owl, observations, reproductive sites, territories

Geographic Keywords — **Common-use word or phrase used to describe the geographic location or setting of the data set.**
statewide, Sierra Nevada, California, northern California

DESCRIPTION

ABSTRACT

Time period covered.

The data primarily represents data gathered from 1972 to the present time by researchers and biolgists working for the US Forest Service and National Park Service in the Stanislaus National Forest / Yosemite National Park area. Numerous early sightings from the literature are listed and came from research on great gray owl observations in the early 1970's.

Geographic extent of the records.

Most records come from the central Sierra Nevada. There are records from the north coast across the northern counties of California and south through the Sierra Nevadas to Tulare County.

Base data structure — **Give database program, file structre, & format, key fields.**
The database involves two related Access data tables, one containing summary information for each site and the other containing a listing of each known observation. The key field, SITE_ID, is the unique identifier for each site and links the observations to the site.

Number of records.

The database contains 695 observations records reprsenting 187 great gray owl sites. 602 observations representing 129 sites are from Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera and Fresno counties.

What each record represents.

The database represents great gray owl observations and known reproductive sites and multiple-occurrence sites, and the substantiating data, throughout California. Summary table record contain fields describing the location (township/range/section and UTMs) of the observation record that best represent ths site, the date owls were last observed at the site, and summary information about occupancy and productivity status of each site. Each observation table record represents each unique observation and list the observtion date, observer, occupancy status, and the location of the observation.

PURPOSE

What was the database designed to do.

The database was designed to track the location and occupation history of each known great gray owl observation, breeding site, or consistently used site in California which is likely to be unique from other such observations and sites. The database was designed to be used for project review where site-specific information and history of occupation could be evaluated to determine how a specific project might impact the owls and to design project modification to avoid conflicts. The database supports research by tracking the known distribution and occupancy pattern and trends of this species.

How was the database designed to be used, and by whom.

It is used by agency regulators, consultants, and land owners for project evaluations and species an land management planning, and by biologists for research and monitoring.

METHODS

How were data collected in the field. Give protocol if known/used.

Early observations were gathered mostly by observing owls and many were just chance observations. Some surveys included searchs for feathers and listening for great gray owl calls. In the last 10 years methods have been developed to call great gray owls with tape players. The most recent surveys used a mixture of these techniques and are following US Forest Service survey protocols described by Beck and Winter, in Survey Protoco

Who collected the data in the field.

Observations were basically provided by ornithologists and birders, agency biolgists surveying for spotted ows, and agency biologist and researchers specifically surveying for great gray owls.

Who did the initial data compilation.

Compiled sources which have used almost verbatum in the database include historical information and observations made by Jon Winter in the late 1970's, survey and monitoring data from the Stanislaus National

Basis for geographic coordinates.

Geographic coordinates have been gathered extensively using the township,range, and section system. Some early observations are based on directions/distances from a known landmark. Recent work has also included maps with estimated location points of the animals observed and UTMs. Location points provided on USGS Quad maps (or copies) were used in the database over all other location corrdinates.

What are the general assumptions of the data?

Significant general assumptions of the data were: 1) great gray owls could be identified by call only and by feather only, and 2) a site is a location on the landscape that may be occupied by different great gray owls over time.

What are the known caveats?

Known caveats include: 1) some observations are combined to represent a number of observations in a single yea in one record, 2) some valid observations with incomplete date or location information are included, and 3) an accuracy value is assigned to each observation because the locations from a number of observations were estimated by the Data Contributor; the field LocEst denotes if the legal and UTMs were estimated.

STATUS OF THE DATA

Status — **Choose one: Complete, In work**
Complete

Data Update Frequency — **Choose one: Daily, Monthly, Quarterly, Annually, Continually, Irregular, As needed, None planned**
Annually.

TIME PERIOD FOR WHICH THE DATA IS RELEVANT

Date and Time — **The year (and optionally month, or month and day) for which the data set corresponds to the ground.**

1-Jan-03

Description — **The basis on which the time period of content information is determined.**
Historical through 2002

CONSTRAINTS ON ACCESSING AND USING THE DATA

Access Constraints — **Restrictions and legal prerequisites for accessing the data set.**
Department use only

Use Constraints — **Restrictions and legal prerequisites for using the data set after access is granted**
Recognition that the data set was created and provided by the Department.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Contributor — **The name and address of an organization or individual that created and/or developed the data set**

Complete name and title
Gordon Gould, Senior Wildlife Biologist

Organization name
California Department of Fish and Game

Division, subdivision or branch name
Wildlife and Habitat Data Analysis Branch

Mailing address
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Date and Time — The date when the data set is published or otherwise made available for release.
1993

WHO IS REPSPONSIBLE FOR SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THIS DATASET

Developer Contact — **Person responsible for data set design or development or GIS technical issues (may be the same as *Contributor* or *Data Contact*).**

Complete name and title
Gordon Gould, Senior Wildlife Biologist

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DETAILS ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

Contents Last Updated — **Date that this metadata was last updated.**
10-Apr-03

DATA STORAGE AND ACCESS INFORMATION

File Name — **The file name of the data set. Not to exceed 8 characters.**
ggo2003

Type of Data — **Choose one: Vector digital data, raster digital data, tabular digital data, remote-sensing image, section, spreadsheet, video, view, or tabular non-digital data.**
Vector digital data

Type of Vector Data (if applicable) — **Point, line, or polygon**
Point

File Format — **ArcView shapefile, ArcInfo coverage, Excel, Access, dBase, etc.**
ArcView shapefile

ACCESSING THE DATA

Size of the Data — **Size of combined spatial data and database.**
9.2 Mb

SPATIAL INFORMATION

The following are the parameters of the Teale standard Albers Equal Area Conic projection. If your parameters differ from these, please fill in those parameters that conform to your data set.

Projection	ALBERS
Datum	NAD27
Zunits	NO
Units	METERS
Spheroid	CLARK1866
Xshift	0.0000000000
Yshift	0.0000000000
Parameters	

```
34 0 0.000          /* 1st standard parallel
40 30 0.000         /* 2nd standard parallel
-120 0 0.000        /* central mdridian
0 0 0.000           /* latitude of projection's origin
0.00000             /* false easting (meters)
-4000000.00000      /* false northing (meters)
```

ATTRIBUTE INFORMATION

Data Dictionary

Complete listing of each field in the dataset, including its type width and field definition. This should also include the valid domain of each field.

Site Summary - Primary Table

Field Name	Field Definition and Codes
SITE_ID	Unique identifier for each site. First three characters are county code and last four are numbers representing the sequence the site was added to the database.
SITE_TYPE	Type of Observation – Incidental Observation, Animal Survey, Plant Survey, Veg. Community Survey, Habitat Survey, Species Monitoring, Habitat Monitoring
OWNSITEID	Unique identifier used by land owner to refer to the site of this observation
OWNERTYPE	Type of ownership BLM = Bureau of Land Management CA = State of California NPS = National Park Service PVT = Private lands PVTI = Private industrial forest lands FWS = US Fish & Wildlife Service USFS = US Forest Service
OWNER	Specific land owner or larger administrative unit of an agency (e.g., national forest name) BKF = Bakersfield Dist., BLM CPR = Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation ELD = Eldorado NF INY = Inyo NF KIC = Kings Canyon NP KLA = Klamath NF LAS = Lassen NF LKL = Lower Klamath NWR LSV = Lassen Volcanic NP LTB = Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit MOD = Modoc NF MWR = Modoc NWR PLU = Plumas NF SEQ = Sequoia NF SIE = Sierra NF SQA = Sequoia NP STA = Stanislaus NF TOI = Toiyabe NF YOS = Yosemite NP
OWNERUNIT	Land owner's designated sub-unit (e.g., state park name) BKW = Beckworth RD CAL = Calaveras RD CM = Cannell Meadow RD DNR = Del Norte Coast Redwoods SP DV = Downieville RD EL = Eagle Lake RD FOL = Folsom RA GSN = Goosenest RD GVL = Groveland RD HAT = Hat Creek RD HL = Hume Lake RD HS = Hot Springs RD KR = Kings River RD LAP = La Porte RD MAR = Mariposa RD MIN = Minarets RD MIW = Mi-wok RD ML = Mammoth RD MO = Mono Lake RD MW = Mt. Whitney RD OK = Oak Knoll RD PC = Prairie Creek Redwoods SP PLA = Placerville RD PR = Pine Ridge RD QNY = Quincy RD SUM = Summit RD SV = Sierraville RD TK = Truckee RD TR = Tule River RD WM = Warner Mountain RD
LOCATION	Name (from USGS quad) of best geographic feature to represent the location of the observation, site or activity
CNTYCODE	Code for county (or counties) where occurrence is mapped ALP = Alpine BUT = Butte CAL = Calaveras DNT = Del Norte ELD = El Dorado FRE = Fresno HUM = Humboldt INY = Inyo LAS = Lassen MAD = Madera MNO = Mono MPA = Mariposa NEV = Nevada PLU = Plumas SHA = Shasta SIE = Sierra SIS = Siskiyou TEH = Tehama TUL = Tulare TUO = Tuolumne
LOCEST	Specific location not provided, and estimated by database administrator
TOWNSHIP	Township where the observation is located.
RANGE	Range where the observation is located.
SECTION	Section number
QTRSECTION	Given if the half section or quarter section has been determined

SXTNTHSEC	SXTNTHSEC - Given if the half of the quarter section or sixteenth section has been determined
ACC_CLASS	Represents spatial uncertainty in a relative way 1 = Specific bounded area with an 80 meter radius 2 = Specific bounded area 3 = Non-specific bounded area 4 = Circular feature with a 0.2 mile radius 5 = Circular feature with a 0.4 mile radius 6 = Circular feature with a 0.6 mile radius 7 = Circular feature with a 0.8 mile radius 8 = Circular feature with a 1.0 mile radius
UTMZONE	UTM zone number. Either 10 or 11.
UTMNORTH	UTM northing in meters
UTMEAST	UTM easting in meters
KEYQUAD	Name of the USGS 7.5 min quads on which occurrence is mapped
ELEVATION	Elevation in feet
DATELAST	Date of last known observation at this site
NUMOBS	The total number of observation recorded where the animal sought was observed.
NUMADLTMAX	The maximum number of adults observed or known to have been present in any given year
SOCSTATSUM	The best social known social status recorded for this site in any given year.
OBSMETHOD	Heard, seen, photograph, tracks, telemetry, trapped
YRLASTNEST	The year of the last known nest observation
YRLASTYNG	The year of the last know observation of young
DOCSOURCE	Document source for the observation sheet for this observation in the Data contributor's files
COMMENTS	Comments

Observations - Secondary Table

SITE_ID	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
OWNSITEID	Unique identifier used by land owner to refer to the site of this observation
ACTCENTER	An "x" indicates this observation is the basis for the current activity center.
OWNERTYPE	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
OWNER	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
OWNERUNIT	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
LOCATION	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
LOCEST	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
TOWNSHIP	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
RANGE	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
SECTION	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
QTRSECTION	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
SXTNTHSEC	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
ACC_CLASS	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
UTMNORTH	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
UTMEAST	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
ELEVATION	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
OBSTIME	Time that the observation was made
OBSDATE	Date that the observation was made.
OBSERVER	Observer's name, first name first.
ACTIVITY	Activity Exhibited at time of observation – Breeding, Wintering, Migration, Cave/Den/Burrow Site, Roost, Nesting,
TOTINDIV	Total number of all individuals of this species in this observation
NUMADULT	Number of adults counted
NUMMALE	Number of males counted
NUMFEMALE	Number of females counted
SOCSTAT	P=pair identified, PN=pair nesting (location represents nest site), PR=pair reproduced, PNR=pair nested &
OBSMETHOD	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
NESTKNOWN	Yes = the location of this observation represents the nest site & the nest site was identified during this observation.
NUMYOY	Number of individuals counted that were born that year.
DOCSOURCE	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE
COMMENTS	SEE DEFINITION FROM TABLE ABOVE